

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2003

THOSE PRESENT: Ms. Betty MacDonald, Chair
Mr. Bob Venus
Councillor Meade
Mr. Patrick Harrington
Ms. Jane Cale
Ms. Maureen Reynolds
Ms. Barbara LeGay
Ms. Joanne Coffey
Ms. Cynthia Street (arrived at 5:00 p.m.)

REGRETS: Ms. Anne Langille
Councillor Sarto
Ms. Peggy Brown

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Charla Williams, Diversity Program Co-ordinator
Mr. Kevin Hindle, Metro Transit
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Regional Police
Two Interpreters
Ms. Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by the Chair in the Training Room, 3rd Floor, Duke Tower.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 22, 2003**

Jane Cale referred to the fact that the Minutes indicated she was Vice-Chair. Since she was not Vice-Chair, she requested that the words be removed after her name.

With regard to Item 4.1.2 - Access-A-Bus Subsidy, Ms. Reynolds stated that her name should be replaced with Mr. Harrington's.

With regard to Item 4.1.4 - Halifax Association for Community Living, since the section was blank, it should indicate that this item has been completed and can be removed.

MOVED by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Venus to adopt the Minutes of meeting held on October 20, 2003 as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The Committee discussed items under 4.1 Status Sheet Items which could be removed. The information pertaining to same is outlined under the appropriate section under 4.1 Status Sheet Items.

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Reynolds to adopt the Agenda. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 **Status Sheet Items**

4.1.1 **Update - Wheelchair Accessible Taxis**

Mr. Harrington reported that he continues to be in contact with Lockie Rutt who is trying to get a meeting with the Taxi Commission, the Utility and Review Board, members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and members of the Canadian Paraplegic Association regarding provision of accessible taxis. Mr. Rutt has taken on the responsibility

of getting a date for the meeting. At present, there is only one accessible taxi that operates during business hours Monday to Friday. There is no access to and from the airport.

Discussion then took place on the present situation and whether or not an accessible taxi could pay for itself.

Mr. Harrington advised he would provide an update on a monthly basis.

4.1.2 Access-A-Bus Subsidy or Accessible Taxi Subsidy

Ms. Reynolds referred to the fact that her name was listed for this item on the Agenda and asked for clarification as she thought that Mr. Harrington was involved with this. Ms. Reynolds was going to contact other cities to see how they subsidize their accessible taxis; however, she did not do this because she thought the people working on this item would do it. Alternatively, however, she thought that at a previous meeting it had been decided not to pursue contacting other cities.

The Chair indicated she thought this item was deferred because Mr. Harrington was not present at the last meeting.

Mr. Harrington indicated that this item should be dropped from the Agenda.

4.1.3 Housing for the Environmentally Sensitive Report and

4.1.11 Apartment Buildings - New Construction - Wheelchair Accessible (Accessible Housing for Persons with Disabilities)

Ms. Reynolds expressed concern with the on-going problem for people with multiple chemical sensitivities finding a place to live, particularly as they age. People with sensitivities cannot go into a building where the basements or baseboards are sprayed with pesticides on a monthly basis or if hallways of buildings have floor polish or carpets being cleaned.

Ms. Reynolds went on to say that she went back to the report to Regional Council dated September 16, 2002 entitled "Housing Report" and the recommendations contained therein. She circulated copies of the report. She suggested that the report now proposed to go to Regional Council entitled "Accessible Housing for Persons with Disabilities" include a line referring to the use of indoor pesticides and location of dryer vents.

Committee members then went on to deal with the draft Accessible Housing for Persons with Disabilities report proposed to go to Regional Council dated October 21, 2003.

Ms. MacDonald questioned whether or not Ms. Reynolds knew if a letter had been sent to Mayor Kelly from Dr. Fox as Ms. Reynolds had given her a copy of same. It was dated September 16, 2002. In response, Ms. Reynolds advised she did not know if the letter had been sent; she understood Paul Connors was going to send it.

Ms. MacDonald then advised that she had e-mailed Paul Connors a number of times but had not received an answer. She would try to contact Mr. Connors again.

Discussion then took place on whether or not a separate recommendation should go forward to Regional Council regarding the use of pesticides, if there should be an information item attached to the draft report now under consideration to go to Regional Council from the Committee or if something should be included in that same report.

Ms. Williams stated she understood that someone was going to speak to Barb Nehiley because Barb Nehiley is working on a report regarding the availability of housing. She suggested Barb Nehiley might agree to include the issue of availability of housing for persons with chemical sensitivities as part of her report.

Ms. LeGay questioned a delay in sending the draft report to Regional Council if it is necessary to wait for a response from Barb Nehiley. Subsequently, Ms. MacDonald agreed to contact Barb Nehiley to see if she can add the issue of chemical sensitivities to her report and obtain her input.

MOVED by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Coffey to forward the report on Accessible Housing for Persons with Disabilities dated October 21, 2003 as presented with an amendment to include, as part of the sentence referring to people with chemical sensitivities, the use of indoor pesticides and location of dryer vents. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Reynolds agreed to send the 2002 Housing Report by e-mail to Sandra Shute who would have it transferred to Braille.

4.1.4 Halifax Association for Community Living Family Support

This has been completed and can be removed.

4.1.5 Presentation to Regional Council - 2003 Annual Report

A draft 2003 Annual Report prepared by Ms. Coffey was circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting.

Ms. Cale suggested that there is an additional activity the Committee has been involved in - that of access to communications, information and documentation. Regional Council should be aware of the way information is presented to people with disabilities and the need to provide in another format.

After further discussion, it was agreed to include the following as part of the report:

- The members of the Committee who have a variety of disabilities.
- The issue of communication amongst the group and the on-going struggle to enhance communication both within HRM and with outside agencies.
- The fact that HRM has a Braille printer.

4.1.6 Research on Use of Ultraviolet Light to Disinfect Public Pools

Ms. Reynolds circulated copies of information obtained from Charlottetown re pools disinfected with ultraviolet light or other alternates instead of chlorine only. She provided an overview of the information obtained.

Discussion took place. It was subsequently agreed to forward the information to Mike Labrecque, Director of Real Property and Asset Management for information purposes for consideration for future construction of new pools. If Mr. Labrecque has any questions regarding the information, he can contact the Committee.

4.1.7 Pedway - HDL

Ms. Williams advised that she has still not received a definitive answer and suggested that this be deleted and once the information is received, she will add it to the Agenda.

After discussion, it was agreed to that this item should remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.8 Reimbursement for Travel

This has been dealt with. To be deleted.

4.1.9 Capital District Urban Design Project Public Meeting

A reception and final meeting of the whole urban design project was held in August to display the studies done in five areas. This can be deleted.

4.1.10 Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission - Older Parents Caring for Adult Sons and Daughters with Disabilities

This has been dealt with. To be deleted.

4.1.11 Apartment Buildings - New Construction - Wheelchair Accessible

This was dealt with under 4.1.3 above.

4.1.12 Membership on the Committee

Discussion took place on re-appointments to the Committee and the search for new members. Those whose appointments will be expiring were encouraged to re-apply.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS** - None

7. **REPORTS** - None

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 **New Fully Accessible Bus Service**

Mr. Hindle circulated a Metro Transit pamphlet on new fully accessible bus routes beginning October 15, 2003.

9. **ADDED ITEMS** - None

10. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monday, November 17, 2003

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute
Legislative Assistant